

today. True, they will increase the cost of this legislation, but more importantly, they will increase our national security, which is what this bill is fundamentally supposed to accomplish.

**H.R. 2035, THE IDENTITY THEFT
AND FINANCIAL PRIVACY ACT**

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 2035, the Identity Theft and Financial Privacy Act.

As Congress begins the process of reauthorizing various provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act FCRA, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting measures that help protect people from the growing problem of identity theft. Consumers' private financial information should be carefully guarded, and Congress must act promptly to ensure that credit bureaus provide individuals with updated, accurate information about their credit reports.

H.R. 2035 is an important first step in Congress's efforts to prevent identity theft. By requiring consumer reporting agencies to provide free credit reports annually upon the request of a consumer, this legislation will allow individuals to detect identity theft at an early stage, before their credit reports are permanently damaged. Such reports can be the determining factor behind financial institutions' decisions to extend credit for the purchase of homes and durable goods such as cars and home appliances. Credit reports damaged by stolen identity and fraud can prevent hard working individuals and families from building better lives and attaining the desirable goals of home ownership and financial security.

To that end, I am pleased that H.R. 2035 includes a provision that would require credit card issuers to confirm change of address requests if such a request is received within 30 days of a request for an additional card, and would amend the FCRA to require consumer reporting agencies to notify requesters of potential fraud when the request includes an address for the consumer that is substantially different from the most recent address on file with the consumer reporting agency.

Finally, by requiring the truncation of credit card numbers on printed receipts, H.R. 2035 will curtail a common method by which identity theft so often occurs. In many instances, criminals have easy access to individuals' credit card numbers simply by viewing those numbers on printed receipts. In 2001, 73 percent of American households had at least one credit card, making a large segment of the country vulnerable to having their financial information stolen. This legislation will thwart a significant number of would-be identity thieves by blocking most of the numbers in a person's credit card account, thereby preserving and protecting sensitive, private financial information for the vast majority of the public.

Congress has a responsibility to help the American people, and our national economy, prosper. Strengthening financial privacy laws and preventing identity theft will help to achieve these goals, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Identity Theft and Financial Privacy Act.

RECENT RUSSIAN PURCHASE OF
AMERICAN MINE REPRESENTS
FREE MARKET SUCCESS BENEFITING BOTH COUNTRIES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, after the fall of the infamous Berlin Wall and break up of the Soviet Union, I advocated a Marshall Plan for Russia and the former Soviet Republics to demonstrate that democracy and a market economy is the better way for our former adversary.

It is one thing to win the Cold War but quite another to vastly improve the lives of ordinary citizens who have never known freedom. Regrettably, our government did not seize the opportunity then and instead opted for smaller and fragmented programs to encourage private sector investment.

Although we could and should have done more, a new generation of Russian entrepreneurs is boldly moving that country to a vibrant market economy, contributing to Russia's unlikely status as the world's leading growth economy of 2003.

One of the most impressive examples is the Russian oil company, YUKOS, which under the able leadership of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, has become one of the largest and best operated energy companies in the world. This is good news for Americans, in that future oil imports from Russia will significantly reduce our energy dependence on the volatile Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, another striking example of positive change in Russia today can be found in corporate governance. Business leaders, such as Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Vladimir Potanin, head of INTERROS, Russia's largest private investment company, are pressing the issue of corporate responsibility and working to set standards to insure reform and good governance to help pave the way for Russia's membership in the WTO.

The clearest sign of Russia's emergence as a player in the world economy is the recent acquisition by the Russian mining giant, Norilsk Nickel, of the Stillwater Mining Company in Montana, the largest acquisition by a Russian company in the United States.

Norilsk Nickel brings experience and a first-rate management team to complement the Montana plant's operation and competitive position. This new synergy will bring benefits to both companies, the Stillwater shareholders and workers, and the consumers—the U.S. auto industry, who depend on both plants for the palladium it uses in catalytic converters.

The transaction passed muster with two Federal agencies. The Administration's inter-agency group that looks at security-related issues on all foreign acquisitions in the U.S., and the Federal Trade Commission that scrutinizes impact of such transactions on consumers. The Stillwater shareholders also voted overwhelmingly in favor of the purchase.

Only a few years ago, it would have been all but impossible to imagine the U.S. government approving the sale of an American mining company that holds claims on the only significant sources of platinum and palladium outside of South Africa and Russia. These two precious metals are the key ingredients in the

automotive catalytic converters used to scrub pollution from exhaust emissions. They also are vital components in a wide-range of electronics and, of course, in fine jewelry as well.

Commercial transactions, such as the Norilsk Nickel-Stillwater acquisition are important to Russia. Operating on a global scale and in tune with accepted rules of Commerce and good corporate governance and also demonstrates that major East-West investments is opening the doors to opportunity for both sides.

Mr. Speaker, we need to encourage this kind of economic collaboration and rally the forces of a free market that make it possible. We should applaud the vision and dynamic leadership of Russia's new entrepreneurs and the implicit support accorded by our respective governments to encourage these bold initiatives.

**TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY,
KANSAS, CHRISTMAS BUREAU**

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate the Johnson County Christmas Bureau for their great work in helping the needy in our community. The Johnson County Christmas Bureau is a nonprofit organization that has been bringing Christmas joy and holiday assistance to thousands in the Kansas City area for nearly forty years.

Working out of a donated office with donated storage space, every year the Bureau puts together a "Christmas shop" for the disadvantaged, where each eligible family member can get a gift, a new item of clothing, personal items, used coats and a wide array of groceries. Each individual can choose his or her items, preserving the dignity of the family while bringing joy to those in need. The Bureau has received most of its funding through individuals, schools and church organizations—they strive to keep their overhead low so that more money may be used to provide a Merry Christmas to the needy.

I want to recognize the great contribution that the Johnson County Christmas Bureau has made to the Kansas City community and to the many lives which they have brightened. Last year, the Bureau helped over eight thousand families and this year they expect to serve many more. The many people who volunteer numerous hours from their busy lives for the Christmas Bureau, just to see the joy on the faces of others, remind us how fulfilling charity can be. It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this tribute to the good works of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau.

IN HONOR OF VIRGINIA FRANCO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize and honor Virginia Franco on her retirement after 23 years as an

elementary school teacher with the San Diego Unified School District. She may be retiring from teaching, but she is definitely not retiring as a community leader.

Virginia was raised in Camarillo, CA. She was widowed while still a young woman, and came to San Diego in 1971. She began her liberal arts studies at San Diego State University, and it was there that I met her.

Virginia has managed to combine her career as a dedicated teacher of second and third grade students and mother of three children with a second career as a San Diego Educators' Association (SDEA) union activist and community leader. Over the years, she has been involved in more causes and struggles than can be mentioned here. Among them are opposition to the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile, support for victims of the death squads in El Salvador, support for affirmative action, and participation in voter registration campaigns for new citizens.

Virginia's activism continues to the present. As part of the Older Women's Project, she demonstrated against the invasion of Iraq. She is working with the San Diego labor movement to bring about a living wage ordinance for the city of San Diego. She is a leader in her labor union, the SDEA, having held the position of Human Rights Chair, an elected delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly in 2001, and is currently a member of the Political Involvement Committee.

On the occasion of her retirement, Virginia wrote a farewell letter to the parents of her students. This letter expresses as well as anyone can the reasons she tries so hard to help create a better world.

The letter reads:

DEAR PARENTS: Our last day is upon us at Clay Elementary School. We, in Room 4, have been working hard to become prepared for the challenges ahead. These few years, particularly, have been trying times in news and heavily concentrated in the area of education. For many of us, working more hours to fulfill our responsibilities for our children have become necessary. The world has entered our homes in the news, and much of it is difficult for us to understand. In our schools, we are wondering how our children will fare with the problems that concern public education due to difficult economic times in the state of California. Yet, in spite of these extraordinary times, Room 4 students have been working cooperatively to prepare for the difficult times by doing their part as better readers and citizens in order to meet those challenges.

We have learned in reading that nonfiction literature—biography, science, and social studies—help us learn about the past in order to understand the present in the hopes of preparing for a better future. We learned that reading for understanding of past and present history helps us prepare to make those decisions. We are aware that this preparation will help us work toward a time, seemingly far away, but necessary, in order to preserve better conditions of life for our families, our communities, and possibly for those whom we don't know in other parts of the world.

Our world needs fixing. By reading about the environment, we learned that many studies are possible to help us prepare for knowledge and understanding about pollution and saving our natural resources. Careers in science and math will be necessary for making changes in these areas of studies. We are beginning to understand that it is of great importance to understand the present, in the hopes of affecting the future in posi-

tive ways. Social and environmental studies will help us to fix and create that better world.

We learned about early America and the struggles to build it. It took many kinds of citizens to change it for the better. We also learned that connection with other countries remains necessary to strengthen what we share now. Citizens here in America from all over the world are helping to enrich our way of life in their sharing of their cultures. Our students know that it is their job to continue their efforts to become those good, creative, and knowledgeable students to prepare for the challenges ahead.

Thank you for your part in seeing that your child continues to prepare to become that responsible citizen that you and I hope will contribute to our community. I have been privileged, hopefully, to help chart that course. It is especially meaningful for me this year of my retirement.

I look optimistically forward to your child's educational success in the future.

Most Sincerely,

VIRGINIA FRANCO,
3rd Grade Teacher.

This letter speaks to her commitment to the children she is teaching and to the larger community. Our world would be a better place if we all were as dedicated as Virginia. As she retires, I want to acknowledge a woman of conviction, dedicated both to her love of teaching and to her belief in the importance of individuals working to make a difference in this world.

My best wishes go to my good friend, Virginia Franco.

COMMENDING LEONARD R.
TOTORA

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and admiration to commend Leonard R. Totoro for his service in the United States Army.

At this time of conflict, stories like those of Mr. Totoro remind us of the courage the members of our Armed Forces have always displayed and continue to display on a daily basis. They are a testament to the dedication, honor and strength of the men and women in uniform. They deserve to be praised for generations to come.

After enlisting in the army at the age of 17, Mr. Totoro attended the Army School of Photography and then spent two years in Europe as a member of the Signal Corps, filming motion pictures for the military. With the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, Mr. Totoro was assigned to General MacArthur's headquarters in Japan.

In Korea, Mr. Totoro served above and beyond the call of duty when he volunteered to jump 35 miles behind enemy lines with the 187th Airborne Rangers. Unfortunately, with no prior parachuting experience or training, Mr. Totoro suffered severe injuries to his right leg and ankle. Knowing how important the footage he was capturing was, Mr. Totoro initially refused medical treatment and remained with the 187th Airborne Rangers for many more hours.

Upon hearing the news of his heroic effort on the battlefield, UN Supreme Commander

General Ridgeway awarded Mr. Totoro paratrooper wings with a Battle Star. In addition to his paratrooper wings, Mr. Totoro was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery against the enemy.

I commend Mr. Leonard Totoro for his dedication and service to his country and for the bravery, honor and valor he displayed during his service in the Army.

MAJOR GEORGE WINTON
THOMPSON

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, alumni of Woodrow Wilson High School Class of 1958 will congregate in Beckley, West Virginia. They gather to celebrate the 45 years passing after the graduation of 343 students.

My alma matter, Woodrow Wilson High School, so named in 1917, traces its roots to July 13, 1900. The school mascot is a flying bald eagle and the enrollment of the school is identified as the Flying Eagles. As the bald eagle is a majestic bird, it is also an independent creature. Eagles nest but they do not flock. It was therefore preordained that the alumni of this school separate and spread to the four corners of our great Nation and beyond.

The year 1958 represents a very different time with American citizens living under different standards. The Universal Military Training Act defined one of those standards. Under this Act, able-bodied male citizens past the age of 18 years were subject to six years of military training and duty. The United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps thereby benefited with the coming of age by Woodrow Wilson alumni. One chapter of the military contribution made by the Class of 1958 can be found in the Vietnam War. West Virginia sacrificed more sons on a per capita basis in the Vietnam War effort than any other state in the Union. Vietnam in wartime was where some 1958 graduates celebrated their 10th year beyond graduation. By the end of the Vietnam War, these alumni had returned to their homes and families, except one. This Flying Eagle was reported as missing-in-action on May 16, 1966, when the AC-47 gun ship he was navigating failed to return from a mission. At the time of his last action, the young man who had interrupted his studies at West Virginia University to serve his country held the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. When the exchange of prisoners of war took place following the Vietnam War, this airman was not among the repatriated. During the following years, the airman's mother was encouraged by our government not to relinquish hope. She mailed letters and packages for years. None of the letters or packages were either acknowledged or returned. During these same years, the airman received posthumous promotions up to the rank of major. The mystery surrounding this Class of 1958 Flying Eagle was not resolved until November 24, 1999, when his recovered remains were positively identified. His remains, along with the remains of seven additional crewmembers on the ill-fated military aircraft, were obtained from the crash site during three separate collections during 1995, 1996, and 1997. The recovered remains of all eight crewmembers